

# Lithuanians Report Oil Is Cut Off

## *Vilnius Offers Pause In Laws to Gain Talks*

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Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, April 18—Soviet authorities tonight fulfilled their threat to begin economic sanctions against Lithuania and stopped the flow of oil to the republic's only refinery, Lithuanian officials said.

Despite statements in the state-run media earlier in the day that Moscow had not halted delivery of energy supplies to the republic, officials at the refinery in Mazeikiai said the flow of crude oil was shut off at 9:30 p.m. local time.

The refinery director, Bronius Vainora, said he was told by telephone that the flow of crude oil to Lithuania from the Byelorussian city of Polotsk was being turned off on the orders of Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, according to Lithuanian parliament officials. Vainora said he was given no information on when the supply of oil to the plant might be resumed.

Before it knew about the cutoff of oil, the Lithuanian parliament tried to respond to Moscow's latest ultimatums with a letter and resolution of compromise addressed to the Kremlin. The Lithuanian legislators offered to observe a moratorium until May 1 on the passage of any new political laws in exchange for "preliminary consultations" with the Kremlin.

Last Friday, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev warned Lithu-

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# Soviets Cut Off Oil, Lithuanians Report

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nia that unless its legislature rescinded some of its strongest independence legislation within 48 hours, Moscow would throttle crucial supplies to the republic. The cutoff of oil is by far Moscow's most severe sanction so far against Lithuania, whose legislature declared independence March 11.

Lithuania gets virtually all of its natural gas and oil from outside the republic. Officials in Vilnius said they have about a month's supply of oil and are searching for alternate supplies abroad. Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene arrived in Oslo today on a three-day visit seeking to buy Norwegian oil.

Although Gorbachev has said he is well aware that increased pressure on Lithuania may jeopardize relations with the United States and the West, he said last week that the rapid independence of Lithuania or other republics could lead to "civil war and bloodshed" and could not be tolerated unless the republics obeyed new legislation on secession procedures.

In their letter to the Kremlin leadership, the legislators in Vilnius offered "not to adopt new political laws" in the next two weeks if Moscow will agree to meet with a Lith-

uanian delegation led by Vice President Bronius Kuzmickas. Moscow has made it clear that it would not conduct state-to-state negotiations with Lithuania, but the parliament used the phrase "preliminary consultations."

The Lithuanians repeated their position that "everything is negotiable except" the March 11 declaration of independence.

Deputies in the republic have said they are ready to discuss a range of possibilities with Moscow to end the confrontation, including the holding of a referendum on independence in the republic and the adoption of a new law that would allow people to retain Soviet citizenship in an independent Lithuania.

During the secession crisis, the Lithuanian legislators have succeeded only in holding one informal—and mainly fruitless—discussion with Alexander Yakovlev, Gorbachev's closest ally in the Politburo and presidential council.

Before tonight's cutoff of oil, several Soviet officials insisted that energy deliveries were continuing normally.

Aklim Mukhamedzyanov, deputy minister for the oil and gas industry, said Tuesday's reports that Moscow was preparing drastic reductions in Lithuania's supplies of

natural gas and oil were "completely groundless." He said shipments were arriving in Lithuania "as normal."

Alexander Dzassokhov, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet's foreign affairs committee, told Reuters news agency in Paris that Moscow had not yet imposed any economic sanctions on the republic.

"The Lithuanians are receiving all their primary and finished goods to be delivered there under the current plan," he said, adding that the way to end the deadlock was for Lithuania to abide by Moscow's terms for secession. The new law on secession passed last month calls for a referendum and then a five-year "transition" period before a final vote in the national legislature.

Lithuania was also at the center of a kidnapping crisis today as a mental patient, claiming to carry a bomb, commandeered a Moscow-Leningrad flight.

With 70 people aboard, including Cuban, Japanese and American tourists, the hijacker, identified as Igor Kalugin, demanded the plane fly to Vilnius so he could meet with an aide to Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis.

"Either we fly to Vilnius or I blow up the aircraft," the official Tass news agency quoted Kalugin as say-

ing. "I belong to the caste of immortals and have nothing to lose."

Kalugin, a former theatrical worker and a registered patient at a Moscow clinic, said he wanted to help the republic by providing it with a new Aeroflot passenger plane, according to Soviet aviation officials.

As soon as the plane landed in Vilnius, the pilot taxied to a remote part of the airport. Kalugin, still holding a package that he said was a bomb, immediately surrendered to police. Officials found no explosives.

The atmosphere in Vilnius has been calm despite the consistent pressure from Moscow in recent weeks. But legislators there did report that they received numerous phone calls and telegrams from worried constituents who had heard reports that a drastic reduction in energy supplies was imminent.

Prime Minister Prunskiene had said Tuesday that the general director of the Soviet Union's western gas network had sent a telegram advising Lithuanian gas officials that there would be a "sharp reduction" of natural gas supplies beginning Tuesday. But parliamentary spokesmen said that Lithuanian officials and duty officers at the republic's main gas pipeline reported no reductions of supply.